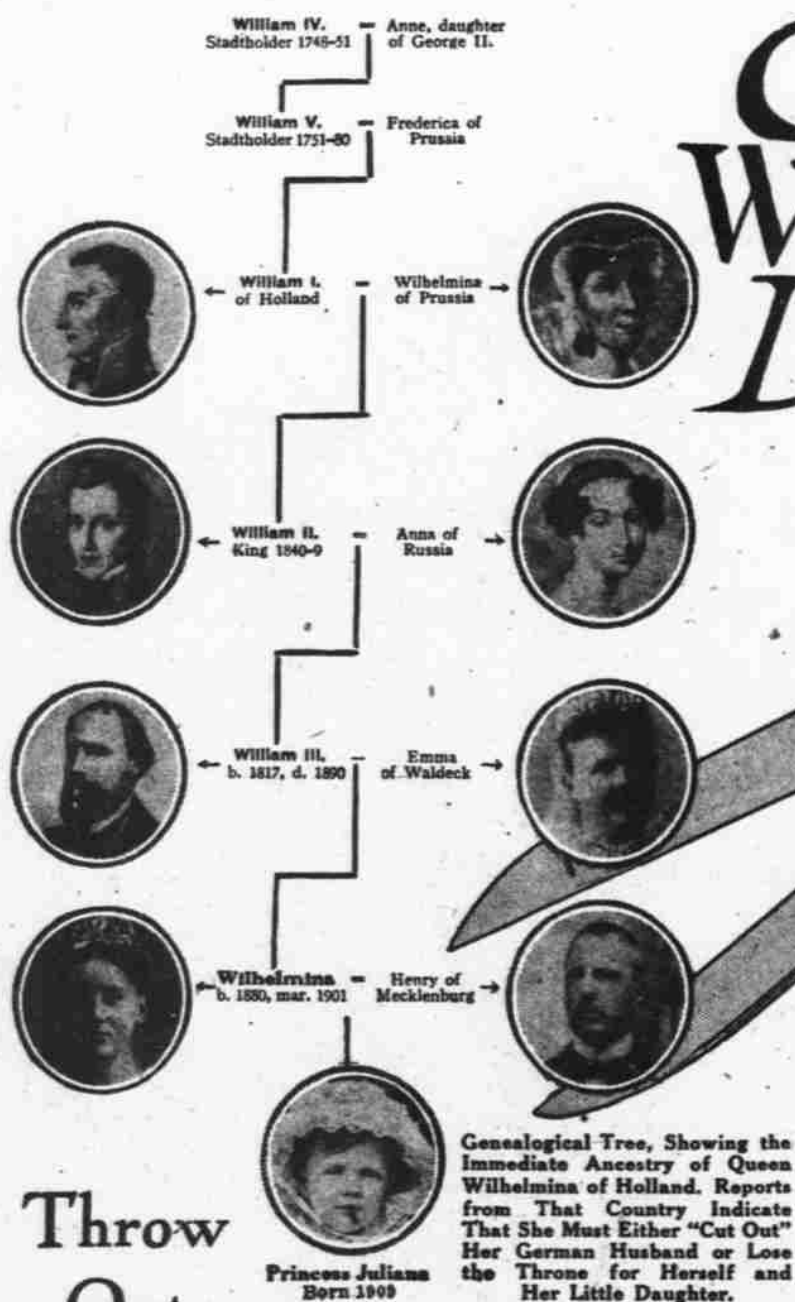


Queen Wilhelmina's Dilemma



Throw Out Her German Husband —or Cling to Him and Lose Her Throne, the Alternative She May Have to Face

THE monarchical system in Europe has produced a heartrending situation which it is difficult for Americans to understand.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland is faced with the alternative of giving up her throne or giving up her husband.

Imagine an American President being informed that he must resign his office or give up his wife! That is virtually the situation that exists in Holland.

Queen Wilhelmina naturally does not wish to give up her throne, which she inherited from her ancestors, and which is the chief interest of her life. But she also does not wish to give up her husband, to whom she has become attached after many years of married life, in spite of frequent quarrels and much bad behavior on his part. It is a universal characteristic of womanly nature to become attached in such cases.

The Hollanders' objections to the Queen's husband, Prince Henry, are imperative and unanswerable. They point out that he is an obstinate German, a sympathizer with autocracy, a war profiteer and a traitor to Holland's interests.

The situation was very moderately stated by Isaac Vorkink, a Dutch author and capitalist, who has been visiting America. He is president of the Dutch East Indies Trading Company. Many other Hollanders have expressed similar views.

"It will be a choice between two loves," said Mr. Vorkink. "It is my opinion that Queen Wilhelmina will decide in favor of remaining with her people, whose love for her argues against any change in the form of government."

"The probable banishing of Prince Henry from Holland will be primarily due to his being a German. The Hollanders have been, with a few exceptions, pro-Ally from the start of the war."

Reports from The Hague indicate that there are three parties in Holland: (1) A small aristocratic party, including those who welcomed the fallen Kaiser, who will keep the Prince in his position; (2) A large party of moderates, including many Socialists, who are thoroughly in favor of Queen Wilhelmina's remaining on the throne, but insist that her husband must go; (3) The extremists, more or less akin to the Bolsheviks, who aim to drive out both the Queen and her husband and make Holland a communist republic, with its wealth distributed among the roughest members of the community.

Impartial observers say that in order to prevent Holland from falling into the hands of the third party it is necessary that the Queen should accede to the demands of the second party by sending her husband away.

Complete arrangements have been made for converting Holland into a republic should conditions require it.

In deciding whether she shall banish her husband, Queen Wilhelmina has not only her own interests to think of. She has to

think of her little daughter, her only child. Any act of the Queen's which led to the establishment of a republic would, of course, deprive the child of her inheritance.

The majority of the Dutch people apparently are attached to the Queen for personal and historic reasons. She is the last direct representative of the House of Orange, a lineal descendant through the male line of William of Orange, who occupies a similar position in Dutch history to that of George Washington in American history. The Dutch people watched Wilhelmina's growth from infancy, her education, her games, her marriage and her family life just as if she were their own daughter.

The trouble centering about the Prince Consort arose during the first few months of their marriage, when it was learned that he was ill-treating his wife and had even threatened her with violence. He was Prince Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, a cousin of one of the minor potentates of the German Empire. Fat, gross, brutal, sensual, without a gleam of intellect in his expression, the Prince is a fine specimen of the German aristocrat and officer. He is, in fact, the incarnation of what the French poet calls "the blond beast."

Uncomfortable as the Prince's position was at all times it has grown far worse during the war on account of his shameless pro-Germanism. This has continued right up to the present moment, and few doubt that the Prince would, if able, assist the Kaiser from his Dutch retreat to regain his power in Germany.

The Prince's profiteering activities have infuriated the Dutch particularly. Food has risen there to famine prices, largely on account of the export of large quantities to Germany. Butter, when it is to be had, costs \$6.50 a pound. The rationing system allows each adult not more than two ounces of meat per week.

The Prince Consort bought up 150,000 acres of land, which he turned into a game preserve, principally for the raising of wild pigs, his favorite beasts. He refused to rent or sell this land when it was acutely needed for food-growing purposes.

He has supported every German commercial scheme for getting control of

Queen Wilhelmina as She Looked a Few Years Ago, When Her Attractive Appearance Had Done Much to Establish Her Popularity in Holland.



Dutch business, including the German project for reclaiming the Zuyder Zee. At the very outset of the war the Dutch people were horrified to see the atrocities committed under their very eyes by the Germans upon the poor Belgians. In defiance of this sentiment Prince Henry maintained the most friendly relations with the German officers who directed these atrocities.

A large number of German officers were among the German troops who strayed over the Dutch frontier and were interned. Prince Henry is still an officer in the German army, and many of these men were his friends. He visited them in their camps and supplied them with wine, beer and other luxuries. This was bad enough, but he went much further when he motored across the Dutch frontier and visited the German officers in Belgium. It is stated that on the day of the German massacre at Louvain the Prince was enjoying a convivial time with German officers in a nearby camp.

The Dutch Government issued an order that no Dutch officer should visit or fraternize with German officers. Prince Henry continued his visits to the Germans, and a Cabinet meeting was held to consider his conduct. He is a general in the Dutch army and an admiral in the Dutch navy. The Prince was summoned to meet the

Cabinet at the War Office. He was informed that he had broken the regulations made for Dutch officers and that his familiarity with German officers must cease.

"I shall not permit you to dictate my personal affairs or prevent me from visiting my friends," replied the fat Prince haughtily.

"Then we shall be obliged to deprive your Royal Highness of your rank in the army and navy," said the Prime Minister. "You are insulting me," roared the Prince.

As a result of this meeting the Prince was kept practically a prisoner in the Royal Palace and was only allowed to travel to other parts of Holland under a guard.

In spite of these precautions he never ceased his pro-German activities, and whenever any question arose with Dutch officials he fought as obstinately for the German side as King Constantine did in Greece.

Shortly before the ending of the war several men of distinctly pro-Ally sentiments took office in the Dutch Government, as it was realized then that the first law of nature was to keep on good terms with the Allies. These officials made their plans to deal summarily with the Prince.

As already noted, Holland's troubles with this Prince began when he was married. It was commonly believed in Holland that he used to beat his wife. According to one report, Major Van Tets, a young Dutch officer, who defended the Queen, was killed in a duel with the Prince.

Certain it was that the pair did not lead a happy married life. The Prince was absent for long periods in Germany. Such public absences do not occur in royal families unless there is a serious disagreement.

Everybody was anxious that the Queen should provide an heir to the throne in order that there might be no future uncertainty about the crown. Again and again the hopes of the Queen and her people were raised, only to be disappointed. Three times in eight years were they disappointed. Popular opinion attributed these unhappy episodes to the Prince's cruel treatment of his wife and national sentiment became very bitter against him.

At last, in 1909, the Queen gave birth to a daughter, the Princess Juliana. Upon this delicate child rests the only hope of preserving the Dutch monarchy, for the next heir is a German, who would not be tolerated. She will be Queen of the Netherlands if she lives and no revolution occurs.

At the time of the child's birth Prince Henry had done a good deal to overcome his original unpopularity in Holland. In 1908 he organized a rescue party when a ship was sinking off the coast near Rotterdam. Three times he went into the water and helped to save many drowning passengers. This achievement naturally made him something of a hero. A big steamship was christened "Prince Henry of the Netherlands" in honor of this event.

The birth of his daughter raised him temporarily in public estimation. He settled down to happy domestic life with the Queen, who showed every mark, in photographs, of enjoying his society. There was, of course, little probability that the Queen would have any other heir, boy or girl, and the little Princess Juliana then became the last chance of preserving the native dynasty. It was a singular coincidence that exactly the same situation arose when Queen Wilhelmina was born, for she was then the last native-born member of the House of Orange. The constitution was changed at that time to permit a woman's accession to the throne.

The next heir presumptive to the throne after the Princess Juliana was the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, one of the minor sovereigns of the German Empire overthrown by the recent revolution. The fallen Kaiser was also related to the Queen, but his descent from the House of Orange went back to a period before the adoption of the present Dutch constitution.

To allow any German prince to succeed to the throne would, of course, mean the loss of Holland's independence, and the Dutch Government prepared a plan under which, in case of the Queen's death without children, Holland would immediately become a republic.

Under these circumstances it may be imagined that the Queen and the Dutch nation became completely absorbed in the life and doings of the little Princess. The people looked upon her as almost their

The Little Princess Juliana, with Her Toys, the Only Dutch Born Heir to the Throne of Holland.



Stout Prince Henry of the Netherlands, Formerly Prince Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Husband of Queen Wilhelmina, with His Little Daughter.

own child, and photographs of her playing with her toys became popular in every Dutch home. How they felt about her may be judged from a recent letter from a Dutch correspondent who wrote:

"Princess Juliana, tightly clasping a Teddy bear to her breast, has been caught by the camera. The photograph which gives greatest pleasure to the loyal Dutch—and they all are loyal—depicts the future Queen making much ado over her frowsty toy while she is out driving."

"In the beginning of her doll days the Princess would have none but the Dutch kind—sabots, woolen skirts, the national headdress and all. It is remembered how once she spurned the Paris made, silk-furbelowed doll sent to her by President Fallieres, to the great delight of the people, whose hearts are wrapped up in her. But now she passes the homely little Dutch dolls with disdain and lavishes all her affection on an American-made Teddy bear."

Here it must be noted that the Queen has lost a good deal of the affection which the Dutch people felt for her in youth. This warm affection was in large part aroused by the fact that she was a very pretty child and looked charming in Dutch national costume.

As she has grown older she has grown very stout and ungraceful. The truth is that Her Majesty is a very heavy eater. An indiscreet Frenchman has published the following particulars of her daily diet:

8 a. m. Coffee with whipped cream, a dozen slices of bread and butter.

10 a. m. Two hot meat or fish patties, cheese.

2 p. m. Lunch, usually hors d'oeuvres, fish, roast beef, fowl, dessert, wine.

4 p. m. Tea, ham sandwiches.

8 p. m. Dinner, consisting of eight courses.

10 p. m. Biscuits, liqueurs.

Prince Henry took a great interest in the management of the Queen's wine cellar, which are said to contain the finest collection of Burgundies and Rhine wines in Europe. This pleasant hobby helped him to forget his troubles with the Dutch Government and people.

The five years before the war were comparatively quiet and happy ones for the Queen and Prince Consort. Now the obstinate pro-Germanism of the Prince, combined with war distress and the growth of Socialism in Holland, has made him more hated than ever.

Will the Queen save her throne by discarding her husband?